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REPORT CLASS
COUNTRY: SOUTH VIETNAM
SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT IN HUE, TAM KY, QUANG TIN PROVINCE, AND DANANG CITY AS OF 1700 HOURS ON 3 FEBRUARY

ACQ: VIETNAM, DANANG (3 FEBRUARY 1968)
SOURCE: THIS IS A SITUATION REPORT ON 3 FEBRUARY PREPARED BY [redacted] CAS, [redacted]

(b)(1) (b)(3)

SUMMARY: IT APPEARS THAT THE VIET CONG (VC) IN THE HUE CITADEL AREA ARE REACHING THE END OF THEIR ROPE AND MAY BE WITHDRAWING. ALLIED FORCES ARE IN GOOD SHAPE AS A DEFINITE BUILDUP OF VC FORCES AROUND TAM KY, QUANG TIN PROVINCE, HAS BEEN NOTED. THE DETENTION OF SUSPECT RESIDENTS IN DANANG CITY HAS PRESENTED A PROBLEM IN FINDING INTERROGATORS TO SCREEN THEM. VC SAPPERS HELD AT THE PROVINCIAL INTERROGATION CENTER HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT THEM TO TRY TO IDENTIFY THE VC AMONG THE DETAINEES. THE POLICE ALSO ARE PLANNING A SEARCH FOR WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES IN THE HOUSES OF DANANG. END SUMMARY.

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1. AS OF 1700 HOURS, THE ASSISTANT DEPUTY ADVISOR TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT SUCH VC AS REMAIN IN THE CITADEL IN HUE CITY HAVE BEEN FORCED INTO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER BY ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) FORCES. THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE VIET CONG (VC) WILL BE CLEARED FROM THE AREA DURING THE NIGHT OF 3 FEBRUARY.

2. ON 3 FEBRUARY TWO POLICEMEN, LE NGOC XUAN AND NGUEYN PHU, WERE INTERVIEWED BY A CAS OFFICER AT THE SURGICAL HISPITAL IN DANANG, WHERE THEY HAD BEEN EVACUATED BY WAY OF PHU BAI AFTER BEING INJURED DURING THE VC ATTACK ON HUE. BOTH SAID THAT AT APPROXIMATELY 0330 HOURS ON 31 JANUARY THE VC BEGAN A HEAVY MORTAR ATTACK AGAINST THE CITY. ABOUT 0600 HOURS VC DRESSED IN ARVN UNIFORMS SUDDENLY APPREARED EVERYWHERE IN THE AREA OF THE HUE BROADCASTING STATION, WHERE THEY WERE ON GUARD. BOTH POLICEMEN THOUGH IT WAS A GROUND ATTACK AND COULD NOT DETERMINE IF THE VC WERE IN THE CITY AND ATTACKED FROM WITHIN. UP TO THE TIME THEY WERE FOUND BY U.S. MARINES 24 HOURS AFTER THE ATTACK, THE VC HAD NOT OCCUPIED THE HUE RADIO STATION. BOTH SAID THAT PEOPLE GENERALLY EXPECTED A VC ATTACK, BUT NOBODY EXPECTED A GROUND ATTACK ON THE CITY PROPER.

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3. ALLIED FORCES APPEAR TO BE IN GOOD SHAPE IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE. A DEFINITE BUILDUP IN THE SIZE OF VC FORCES HAS BEEN NOTED IN THE TAM KY AREA. THE GENERAL SITUATION FROM THE MILITARY STANDPOINT HAS BEEN QUIET THROUGHOUT THE DAY OF 3 FEBRUARY. THE POLICE REPORTED SPORADIC ATTEMPTS IN TAM KY CITY BY SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATIONTO FORM DEMONSTRATIONS. THE LEADERS HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED AND DEMONSTRATORS DISBURSED BY ARVN FORCES.

4. OF THE ARE ORIGINALL EARMARKED IN DANANG BY POLICE FOR A CHECK OF INHABITANTS, 750 OF 1,000 HOUSES HAVE BEEN CHECKED. MORE THAN 400 PERSONS HAVE BEEN DETAINED WHICH MAKES THE POLICE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND SUFFICIENT INTEROGATORS, ALWAYS A CHRONIC PROBLEM BUTPARTICULARLY ACUTE NOW. CONSEQUENTLY, PRISONERS ARE JUST BEING HELD WITH A MINIMUM OF SCREENING. SOME OF THE VC SAPPERS BEING HELD IN THE PROVINCIAL INTERROGATION CENTER HAVE BEEN LOOKING THE DETAINEES OVER TO TRY TO IDENTIFY THE VC AMONG THEM. APPARENTLY SOME PERSONS HAVE BEEN PICKED UP WITH NO FIRM REASON FOR CONSIDERING THEM VC. BOTH THE POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH AND UNIFORMED POLICE, THE 107TH POLICE FIELD FORCE (PFF) COMPANY AND A PLATOON OF THE 106TH PFF COMPANY HAVE PARTICIPAIED IN THE OPERATION. CITY POLICE ARE ALSO EMBARKING ON A SECOND PHASE OF THE OPERATION,

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WHICH WILL HAVE THE ASSISTANCE OF ARVN TROOPS, TO CONSIST OF A SEARCH OF EVERY HOUSE IN DANANG TO TRY TO LOCATE WEAPONS EXPLOSIVES.

5. A FEW DAYS AGO THE POLICE LEARNED FROM AN INFORMANT WHO HAS REPORTED RELIABLE INFORMATION ON DANANG CITY VC MEMBERS IN THE PAST THAT HA KY XGO, CHAIRMAN OF THE VC DANANG CITY COMMITTEE, WAS IN DANANG IN A HOUSE ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE CITY. BY THE TIME POLICE WENT TO THE HOUSE, NO SUSPECT WAS THERE, ALTHOUGH A YOUNG BOY SAID THAT A STRANGER HAD BEEN THERE EARLIER. THE POLICE STILL HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE ARRESTS BUT ALL POLICE OPERATIONS MUST BE CLEARED THROUGH THE VIETNAMESE MILITARY DURING THE PERIOD OF MARTIALLAW.

6. ACCORDING TO POLICE BUDDHISTS IN DANANG HAVE BEEN QUIET SINCE THE VC ATTACKS BEGAN. THERE HAVE BEEN NO EXHORTATIONS OR APPEALS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS. A REGIONAL POLICE OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT THIS LAST SERIES OF HARSH ATTACKS BY THE VC MAY HAVE MADE SOME BUDDHISTS REALIZE THAT THE VC DO NOT HAVE THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE AT HEART AS THEY MAY HAVE THOUGHT EARLIER.

7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USMACV CORDS III MAF 7TH AF USARV COMNAVFORV USAID DIR/JUSPAO (MR. ZORTHIAN ONLY) CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF

REPORT CLASS [redacted]

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